

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Gordon, *et al.* (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0044635) in view of Lortz (U.S. Patent No. 6,505,243). Applicants submit that these remarks overcome all of the outstanding rejections and that the present Application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a notice of allowance of all the claims is respectfully solicited.

Rejections Based on § 103

The proposed combination of Gordon and Lortz cannot be used to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31, however, because the proposed combination does not teach or suggest at least the following elements of the claims: “wherein a help message includes an importance rating that identifies an importance of the help message” and “notifying at least one of the plurality of devices that the display apparatus is busy, further comprising creating, in the display apparatus a busy message, and transmitting the busy message to at least one of the plurality of devices.”

Gordon Does Not Teach A Help Message That Includes An Importance Rating

The Office Action takes the position that Gordon discloses “a help message includes an importance rating that identifies an importance of the help message” as recited in claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31 of the present application. Applicants respectfully note in response, however, that what Gordon in fact discloses is a context message containing keywords and attributes. Gordon’s context message containing keywords and attributes does not disclose a help message including an importance rating that identifies the importance of the help message as claimed because nothing in Gordon’s context message identifies the importance of the context message. Gordon teaches that a context message can contain attributes used to prioritize *amongst the help topics* relevant to the context message. However, Gordon does not teach the prioritization of the *message itself*. In the

present application, the importance rating of a help message is used to prioritize one of the *help messages*. Therefore, Gordon's context message attributes do not disclose a help message's importance rating as claimed. As such, Gordon does not teach or suggest a help message including an importance rating that identifies the importance of the help message.

In response to the argument above, the Office Action at page 6 takes the position that Gordon's "prioritization done at step 315 essentially prioritizes the message itself." Applicants respectfully note in response, however, that even if Gordon's prioritization done at step 315 essentially prioritizes the message itself, Gordon is still insufficient as a reference because there is simply no message disclosed by Gordon that includes, as part of the actual message itself, an *importance rating that identifies the importance of the message*. Furthermore, claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31 of the present application are amended in this Response to include the limitation "wherein the importance rating is included in the help message when the help message is created in the device." Support for this limitation is found in Applicants' original specification at page 35, lines 13-14.

Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31, as amended in this Response, now recite that an importance rating is not only included as part of the actual help message, but the importance rating is also included in the help message when the help message is initially created. In contrast to the claims of the present application, Gordon's method for prioritization does not teach any message that includes an importance rating that is included in such a message when the message is initially created. In fact, the only message that is created by Gordon is a context message that includes string-based keywords and attribute pairs – not an importance rating. Gordon discloses that Gordon's attributes are used as input parameters by the help engine to filter and prioritize help topics. Gordon's attributes, however, are not importance ratings, but rather, parameters that describe the operating state of a software application. Gordon describes exemplary attributes at paragraphs 0042-0055, which include, for example, the shell mode, project type, development language, and other attributes of a software application. Because Gordon's attributes clearly are not importance ratings that identifies the importance of the

messages. Gordon cannot be said to teach or suggest the limitations recited above. The deficiency of Gordon cannot be cured by Lortz, and as such, the cited combination of references cannot be used to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31 of the present application. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should therefore be withdrawn and the claims should be allowed.

**Lortz Does Not Teach Notifying A Plurality Of
Devices That A Display Apparatus Is Busy**

The Office Action takes the position that Lortz teaches notifying at least one of a plurality of devices that a display apparatus is busy as recited in claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31. Applicants respectfully note in response that Lortz actually discloses providing device-specific help information for a network-attachable device by receiving a connection notification for the device, retrieving device-specific help information, and providing the help information to a configuration interface. Lortz further discloses that the network-attachable device can have a network address assigned to the network-attachable device by a configuration device such as a DHCP server. Lortz discloses that a DHCP server can acquire such a network address by broadcasting a message to all devices on a network indicating that the DHCP server intends to assign a specific network address to the network-attachable device. If no devices on the network indicate that the specified address is being used by another device, the address is deemed available and the address is assigned to the network-attachable device.

Lortz, however, does not teach notifying at least one of a plurality of devices that the display apparatus is busy as claimed in the present application. Applicants initially note in response that a DHCP server is not a display apparatus. While a DHCP server may have a monitor attached to the server, it is the server and not the monitor that sends messages. That is, the display apparatus in such a system does not create a busy message and transmit the busy message like the display apparatus claimed here. Furthermore, Lortz merely discloses a method for determining that a network address is unavailable for assignment to a device – not that a display apparatus is busy and cannot display

additional help messages at the moment. A network-attachable device sending a message indicating that a particular network address has been assigned is not the same as a display apparatus sending messages indicating that the display apparatus is busy to devices that display help messages on the display apparatus. A device sending a message indicating that a particular network address has been assigned is only an indication that the device has been assigned a requested address, and as such, the address is unavailable for reassignment. Such a message is not, however, any indication that the device or the address is "busy" and thereby unavailable to display help messages. As such, Lortz cannot be said to teach notifying at least one of a plurality of devices that a display apparatus is busy as claimed in the present application. The deficiency of Lortz cannot be cured by Gordon, and as such, the cited combination of references cannot be used to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31 of the present application. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should therefore be withdrawn and the claims should be allowed.

CONCLUSION


Because the combination of Gordon and Lortz does not teach or suggest each and every element and limitation of the claims, the combination cannot be used to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31 of the present application. The rejection of claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should therefore be withdrawn and claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31 should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31 of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 09-0447 for any fees required or overpaid.

Respectfully submitted,

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